

riverside nature trail



Water is the dominant factor in wetlands.

The Riverside Nature Trail offers a rare opportunity to observe four distinct ecosystem communities during a hike of just a half mile. You'll return along the same path, making a total journey of one mile through riverine, wetland, successional forest and open field ecosystems.

The trail begins near the parking lot for the "Old Schoolhouse" area, about two miles downstream from the Raystown Dam. The first major community you'll encounter is the riverine, which provides plants and wildlife with a constant source of running water—in this case, the Raystown branch of the Juniata River.



A relaxing place for a picnic.

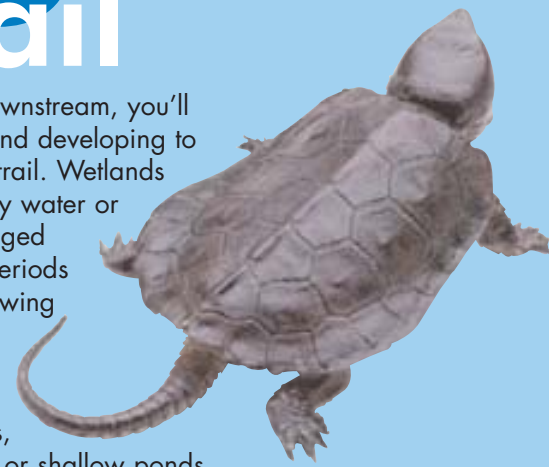


Children studied in a one-room schoolhouse in the early 1900s, giving this area the name "Old Schoolhouse."

Continuing downstream, you'll notice a wetland developing to the left of the trail. Wetlands are covered by water or have waterlogged soil for long periods during the growing season and often include swamps, marshes, bogs, wet meadows or shallow ponds. The waters in these areas contain many microorganisms, insects, crayfish and fish, and serve as important nesting, migrating and wintering areas for waterfowl.

The trail follows the wetland to a 55-foot-long arch span bridge, built by Penn State University engineering students in 1994. An observation deck at the south end of the bridge offers a good vantage point for spotting animals that make their home in the wetland.

Next the trail passes through a successional forest, demonstrating the development of woodlands from shrubs and plants to towering trees. The final community along the Riverside Nature Trail consists of open fields that have been cultivated for wildlife food and cover.



The Snapping Turtle lives in freshwater habitats and does not hesitate to defend itself.



Christmas Ferns like these are commonly found in the successional forest.

scavenger hunt

What Did You Do on Your Hike?

Kids, fill out the hiking journal below and bring this page to the Visitors Center for a free "I Hiked the Riverside Nature Trail" certificate!

- I hiked ___ miles.
- I saw _____
- I heard _____
- I touched _____
- I smelled _____
- What I liked best _____

What Did You Find on Your Hike?

Write down what you found on the trail::

- In the riverine, I saw _____
- In the wetland, I saw _____
- In the successional forest, I saw _____
- In the open field, I saw _____

For updated trail conditions or more information, visit our website:

www.raystown.nab.usace.army.mil



US Army Corps of Engineers®

Baltimore District

Raystown Lake • R.D. #1, Box 222 • Hesston, PA 16647-9227

Baltimore District • US Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 1715 • Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

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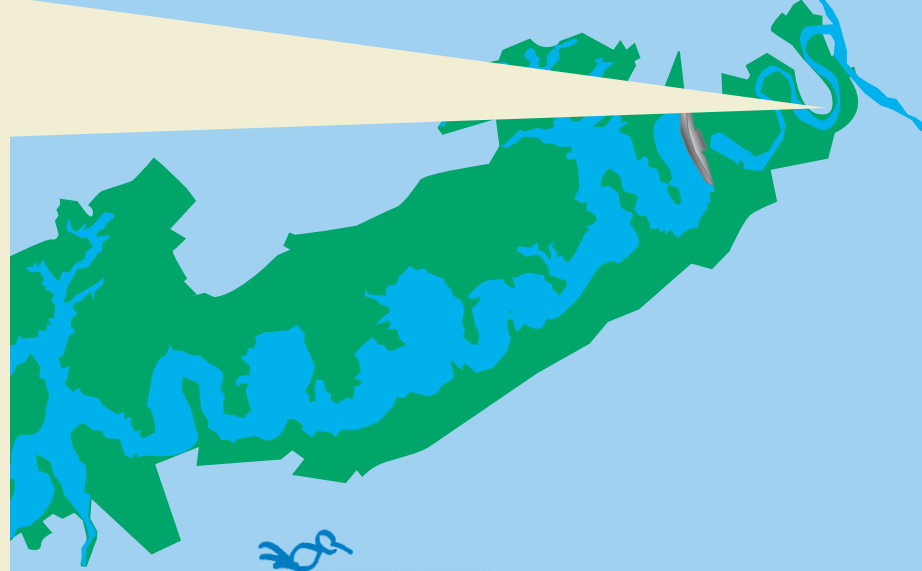


map



Trail Length: 0.5 mi
Map not to Scale

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A riverine always contains water; a wetland does not.



The woodlands have many species of plants and trees.

be a safe & courteous hiker

- Carry drinking water and a first aid kit
- Let someone at home know your plans
- Leave only footsteps, not litter
- Stay on designated trails
- Dress for the terrain and the weather
- Don't smoke or start fires outside official camping areas
- Don't disturb plants or animals
- Share the trail with other users
- Take time to look and listen



Wetlands serve as buffer areas, protecting the shoreline from erosion by waves and moderate storm surges while collecting sediments to help clean the water.

Watch for wetland wildlife such as muskrats, ducks, geese, beavers, deer and bears.

